

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT  
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2015

RULING ELDERS PRESENT: April Betzner, Pat Boyer, Joel Braun, Gordon Core, Jerry Davison, Sue Denmead, Cindy Garlisi, Jackie Koman, Jim Little, Steve Marriner, Crystal Miles, Barbara Reintgen, David Taylor, and Brian Teagarden

RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Terri Grantz, Linda Grimm, Jessica Hickman, and Dennis Myers

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Emily Miller, and Don Nixon

OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant was convened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, on Monday, February 2, 2015 at 7:02 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg read from 1 Corinthians 13 for a devotion.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

After a motion was made by Pat Boyer and seconded by Jerry Davison, the docket for tonight's meeting was unanimously approved by the Session.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the regular Session meeting of January 12, 2015 as well as the minutes from the January 25, 2015 congregational meeting were moved for approval by Jerry Davison, seconded by Sue Denmead, and then unanimously approved by the Session.

APPROVAL OF WEDDINGS

There were no weddings or baptisms for the Session to approve.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

*Baptisms*

Kolt David Reihner, infant son of Steven John and **Rachelle Dickson Reihner**, born June 23, 2014, was baptized on January 11, 2015 at the 11:00 AM worship service. He is the grandson of **David and Renee Dickson** and John and Robyn Reihner. Rev. Emily Miller officiated.

*Weddings* – There were no weddings to report for January.

*Funerals*

**Laurella M. “Lolly” Carnahan** died on Thursday, January 15, 2015. Her memorial service was held on Monday, January 19, 2015 at The Church of the Covenant with The Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg and Rev. Emily Miller officiating.

**Marjorie Carson** died on Saturday, January 17, 2015. She had been living in Florida with her daughter and funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

**Mary Jane Merchant** died on Saturday, January 24, 2015. Her funeral service was held on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at the William G. Neal Funeral home with Pastors Gary Gibson

and Sue Petritis officiating.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK

Mark and Kathy Harshman have moved to Florida and asked to be removed from the Church's active roll. Jackie Koman moved to approve the request, Gordon Core seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Suzanne Carson is now living in Florida and asked to be removed from the Church's active roll. Jackie Koman moved to approve the requests, Joel Braun seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

#### PRESBYTERY REPORT

Pastor Emily reported that the January 2015 Presbytery meeting was the first one moderated by Dr. Broberg, the new Presbytery moderator. First Presbyterian Church was released from its ties with the Presbytery and the PC(USA). The discussion surrounding this situation was contentious, with a number of members of this congregation stating they did not want to leave PC(USA). Dr. Broberg complimented Rev. Craig Kephart, the Executive Presbyter, for the professional way he handled this matter.

Pastor Emily noted that Pastor Gary Gibson was named the part-time chaplain at Washington and Jefferson College.

#### SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

##### *Approval of Session Committee Rosters*

Dr. Broberg passed around a tentative Committee roster for review. He pointed out that the Session needs to get one more time to review the document, so it can be finalized at the March Session meeting. Dr. Broberg also asked the Committee chairs to seek out new members for their committees.

##### *Approval of the 2015 Mission Committee Operating Budget*

David Taylor and Pastor Emily reviewed the details of the 2015 Mission Budget, which is in the amount of \$77,500. That figure includes \$55,000, or 10% of the 2015 pledged income, which was \$550,000. It also includes \$22,500 from the Endowment Fund that is allocated for mission work, and a reduction down to \$5,000 for Family Promise. The Developing Opportunities line item of \$10,000 was left unallocated, so as to be responsive to future needs. Joel Braun moved to approve that 2015 Mission Budget, Jackie Koman seconded that motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

##### *Ministry Planning Next Steps*

Dr. Broberg described the process for completing each Committee's 2015-16 Ministry Plan. The Committees will complete the Ministry planning process at the February Committee meetings. Each Committee chairperson will briefly present the three to five most important points of their Committee's Ministry Plan in five minutes at the March 2015 Session meeting. Dr. Broberg noted that these Plans, once approved by the Session, authorize the Committees to carry out their work during the year.

*Memorial Wish List/Session Wish List*

Dr. Broberg advised the Session that the Memorial Committee has requested that each Committee has been asked for a list of items that need to be purchased as recommended by the Committees. Developing such a list would allow donors to be sought out for those items. Donors could be matched to the list or existing memorials could be used. The larger items in this all-inclusive list of Committee wishes would be sent to the Session for discussion. The Session could then pick the largest as Session wish items. These Session wish items would typically be larger than most individual Committee items in the Memorial List. The Session would approve the lists and the Memorial Committee and Dr. Broberg would seek out donors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Finance Committee* – Brian Teagarden, Chairperson – Brian Teagarden said that January cash flows were about \$19,000 to the positive. All bills are paid and current.

*Personnel Committee* – Sue Denmead, Chairperson – Sue had two items to report. First, she advised the Session that her Committee was recommending an increase in Pastor Emily's Medical Reimbursement from \$500 to \$2,500. Since the motion came from Committee, no second was needed. The Session voted unanimously to approve the increase.

Second, the Committee met recently to discuss the search process for the Director, Christian Education (CE). The Personnel Committee had decided that it wants to make the position a Designated Director, CE, following the example of the Designated Pastor. This point generated much discussion, including give and take about internal advertising for the position, forming a Search Committee, and how this process had worked in the past. It was noted by the Clerk that his notes showed that the Session had said in November 2013 that a Search Committee would be formed in January 2014. But all agreed that the Search Committee was never formed due to budgetary constraints that are no longer present. It was agreed that it was time to move forward and hire Stacy Phillips as the full-time Director, CE, thus putting past practice and discussions aside because of our improved financial condition. April Betzner moved to hire Stacy Phillips as our full-time Director, CE at the salary and benefits received by the congregation in the January 25, 2015 congregational meeting. David Taylor seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

*OAR Committee* – Jim Little, Chairperson – Jim reviewed the Committee's minutes and reported on the review of the Active Roll, commending Debi Nicolella and Don Nixon on their efforts. Jim also reported on the upcoming Prayer Initiative and the Fellowship Dinner. He said that the Committee has recommended that we open up our Covenant Center to W&J students on a periodic basis.

*Stewardship Committee* – Joel Braun, Chairperson – Joel had no information to report.

*Mission Committee* – David Taylor, Chairperson – David said his Committee had no report, and would be focusing on Ministry Planning at its February Committee meeting.

*Worship and Music Committee* – Jackie Koman, Chairperson – Jackie referred everyone to her Committee's minutes. She pointed out that there will be three Christmas Eve services in 2015,

times to be determined except for the fixed time of the 11:00 p.m. service. She also noted that the CONNECT services will be held every other month starting on February 24th.

*Christian Education Committee* – Jessica Hickman, Chairperson – Don Nixon provided the Committee's information tonight. He also noted that the Committee will be working on its Ministry Plan in February. He presented a status report for the Breakfast Club Sunday morning program, which he said is going very well.

*Nominating Committee* – Joel Braun, Chairperson – no report.

*Building and Grounds Committee* – Jerry Davison, Chairperson – Jerry advised the Session that a new flower cooler had been purchased. Work is ongoing for the repairs being made to the 418 N. Wade property. The sound production booth in the Covenant Center has been finished. The Committee is working to figure out a plan for dealing with the pothole problem in the parking lot.

*Administration Committee* – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – no report but the Session was advised that an Intreat will be held after Easter, with the date to be determined.

*Endowment Committee and Memorial Committee* – no reports.

*Ministry Team and Pastoral Care* – Dr. Broberg said that the Washington Ministerium's Service of Christian Unity will be held on Sunday, February 15 starting at 5:00 p.m. at the Washington High School gymnasium. Everyone was encouraged to attend. Pastor Emily advised that six in-home communion teams performed communion for 28 people on February 1, 2015.

#### DATES OF NOTE

The next Communion will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2015. The next regular Session meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2015, starting at 7:00 p.m. The next Washington Presbytery Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, starting at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Monongahela, PA. Charles Bowers and Barbara Reintgen are scheduled to attend.

#### ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by April Betzner and a second by Sue Denmead, the Session unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Emily at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session